

# *Colleton Soil & Water Conservation District*

## *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ April 1958-2008*

### *Annual Report 2007-2008*

531 Robertson Blvd., Suite B Walterboro, SC 29488

August 2008

#### *Board of Commissioners*

I. M. Benton, Chairman  
Deborah Blankenship, Vice Chairman  
Cleveland Hiott III, Secretary/Treasurer  
Marion Rizer, Commissioner  
Roger Harriett, Commissioner  
Reverend Gerald T. Mabry, Chaplain

#### *Staff*

Sharon Hrvol, Administrative Assistant  
**SC Department of Natural Resources**  
Jennifer Majors, Programs Coordinator  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
Fred Tritapoe, District Conservationist  
Eddie Mitchell, Soil Conservation Tech.

The Colleton Soil and Water Conservation District takes pride in presenting the 2007-2008 Annual Report. The activities of the conservation district are governed by a five-member board of commissioners of which two are appointed by the state, and three are elected in the general election. The conservation district works closely with federal and state partners to provide assistance in natural resources conservation throughout Colleton County. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical support to the district. The SC Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water, and Conservation Division employ a Programs Coordinator to provide education and information support to the conservation district.



1958 Board of Supervisors

#### *50th Anniversary*

#### *Colleton Conservation District*

This year the Colleton Soil & Water Conservation District is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Conservation District was newly organized in April 1958. Prior to 1958, Colleton and Dorchester were jointly known as the Lower Edisto Soil Conservation District.

In January of 1958 the Colleton County Board members discussed the separation of the two-county district. It was decided to go forward and form a

separate district within Colleton County borders. The first meeting of the Colleton Soil Conservation District was held July 10, 1958. The Members of the Board of Supervisors were A. G. Kiser, H. L. Rhode, M. P. Howell, C. P. Key and R. E. Rhode. They discussed the advantages of having a one-county district and how they could help the landowners apply soil and water conservations measures more efficiently. The Board also decided to publish their first Annual Report to let everyone know what the District was doing to promote conservation within Colleton County.

This year the 2007~2008 Annual Report is dedicated to the 1958 Board of Supervisors, A. G. Kiser, H. L. Rhodes, M. P. Howell, C. P. Key, and R. E. Rhode. The current Commissioners, I. M. Benton, Deborah Blankenship, Cleveland Hiott, Marion Rizer, and Roger Harriett, continue to carry on their vision and work to protect and conserve the natural resources in Colleton County.

## ***Conservationist of the Year ~ Robert “Bob” Eppinette***

The Colleton Conservation District is proud to recognize Robert “Bob” Eppinette, as the “2007 Conservationist of the Year”.

Bob graduated from Hardeeville High School in 1967, and attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural Junior College. His career began when he accepted a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Savannah. Later he decided to further his education, and enrolled at Clemson University where he graduated in 1976, with a B.S. in Agronomy.

He worked with the Land Resources Commission as an Agronomist for 2 years, and then accepted a position with the Soil Conservation Service in Georgetown as a Soil Scientist. In 1981, he was relocated to Walterboro. Here he led soil mapping surveys in Allendale, Bamberg, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, and Hampton Counties. These surveys are considered vital in assisting individuals and groups with soil analysis in addressing our natural resource concerns.

As an NRCS Resource Soil Scientist, Bob served a 13 county region which encompassed the entire Low country. He assisted countless individuals, groups, farmers, schools, and units of government with soil information as it relates to wetlands and land-use

As an NRCS Employee and President of the SC Soil Science Society, he helped raise money for the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit during the SC Soil Monolith Campaign. He holds membership in the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists, the Southeast Society of Consulting Soil Scientists, the S.C. Professional Soil Classifiers Roster, the Agronomic Science Foundation, and the Soil Classifier Advisory Council.

Bob retired on March 30, 2007 after a 33 year career with NRCS. He and his wife Gail continue to live in Walterboro, their daughter Jessica lives in Savannah and son Jason attends Clemson University. Bob stays busy with his Lowcountry Soil Consulting business.



Bob Eppinette & Marion Rizer



Alex Johnson & Chairman Benton

## ***Alex Johnson ~ Guest Speaker At Annual Affiliate Banquet***

The Colleton Conservation District held their Annual Affiliate Banquet at Longhorn Steakhouse on April 22, 2008. Chairman I. M. Benton welcomed the guests. The District was pleased to have Mr. Alex Johnson as the guest speaker for the evening.

Mr. Johnson was born and raised in Latta, South Carolina. After graduating from high school, he attended Clemson University. In 1974, he received a B. S. Degree in Agronomy. He began his career with the Soil Conservation Service, now known as the

Natural Resources Conservation Service. He served as District Conservationist in Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties for 12 years and in Horry County for 16 years. In 2005-2006 he served in Afghanistan as a USDA Agricultural Advisor. He retired from NRCS in 2007 and presently works as a Natural Resource Consultant while farming part-time in Latta.

Mr. Johnson spoke about the time he spent in Afghanistan helping the local people implement conservation techniques. He also said the people who volunteer to help in this area understand the risks to their own safety but they believe it is important to help the people of Afghanistan with their agricultural and conservation programs.



## 2008 Earth Day Poster Contest

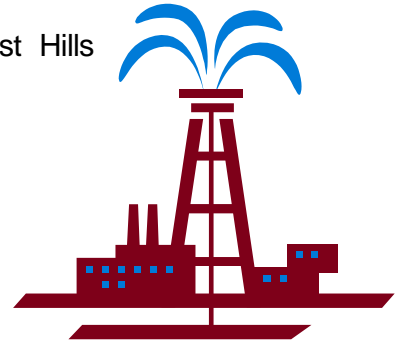
### ***“ENERGY...the Future is Today”***



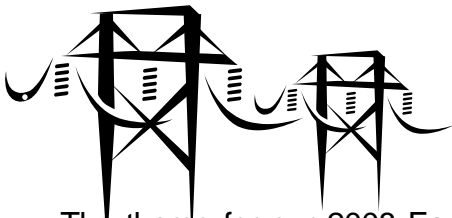
The theme for our 2008 Earth Day Poster Contest was “Energy...the Future is Today”. Awards were presented to the winning classes by grade level. The participating teachers and their principals were recognized at our Annual Banquet. The winners at each grade level received a \$50.00 check and 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon.

### **Poster Winners**

- ✚ Mrs. Kathy Polk & Mrs. Mary Nesmith's kindergarten class at Forest Hills Elementary
- ✚ Mrs. Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class at North Walterboro Christian Academy
- ✚ Mrs. Carter's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class at North Walterboro Christian Academy
- ✚ Mr. Robert Tiegs' 4<sup>th</sup> grade-3<sup>rd</sup> period class at Forest Hills Elementary

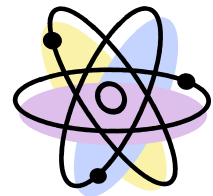


We would like to thank Ms. Cindy Riley principal at Forest Hills Elementary School and Ms. Cynthia D. Jones principal at North Walterboro Christian Academy for their support.

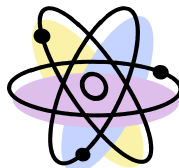


## Conservation Essay Contest

### ***“ENERGY...the Future is Today”***



The theme for our 2008 Earth Day Essay Contest was “Energy...the Future is Today”. Awards were presented to the following winners in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. First place winners received a plaque and \$100.00. Second place winners received a plaque and \$50.00. Third place winners received a plaque.



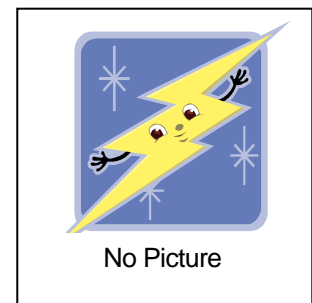
### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners**



First Place ~ Steven Hart



Second Place ~ Terrell Hammonds



Third Place ~Kimberly Chamblin





## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners



First Place ~ Katherine Judy



Second Place ~ Shelby Peters



Third Place ~ Amber Richards

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Winner

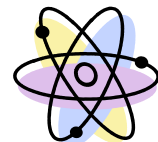
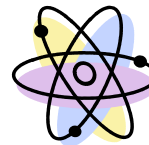
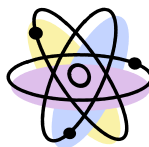


First Place ~ Bonnie Hunt

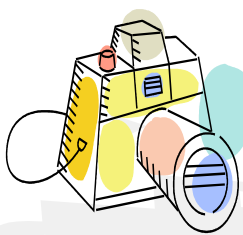


We would like to thank Ruffin Middle School teachers, Mrs. Kimberly Fee, Ms. Elaine Freeman, and Ms. Janet Strickland for encouraging their students to participate in our essay contest. We also thank Principal Harry Jenkins for his support.

All Colleton County students in 6<sup>th</sup> ~ 8<sup>th</sup> grades are eligible to enter the essay contest.



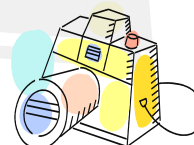
## *Photography Contest*



This year the Colleton Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored a photography contest for students in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. Students were asked to choose a category from our list: The categories were native wildlife, trees/plants, landscapes or urban/rural conservation. We asked the students to be creative. The Photo contest is an individual project with 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner receiving \$150.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winner receiving \$100.00, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner receiving \$50.00.



First Place ~ Shelby Mixon



## Carolina Coastal Adventure

Roselyn Greene, 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Colleton County High School, represented Colleton County at the Carolina Coastal Adventure in 2007. This three-day adventure provided an integrated, hands-on opportunity for students to learn about water resources and environmental conservation. Week-end activities included classroom instruction in water quality analysis and watersheds, canoeing in a cypress swamp at Santee Canal Park, and a tour of the Jeffries Steam Plant.

Roselyn and her family enjoy nature and out-door activities. She was excited about attending the Carolina Coastal Adventure and said "I want to learn how to help preserve this environment for generations to come. While learning, I hope to meet other people who care about the same thing". We encourage all young people to adopt this caring attitude and learn about our environment and conservation.



Roselyn Greene

## Soil & Water Stewardship Week

**"Water is Life" ~ April 27- May 4, 2008**



"Water is Life" was the theme for the 2008 Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 27 through May 4, 2008. Each year the Colleton Conservation District celebrates this observance with area churches to help remind "us of our individual responsibility to care for the natural resources upon which we all depend".

Earth's waters are constantly in motion in a process known as the hydrologic cycle. This cycle has no beginning and no end and water is not gained or lost, but fresh water can fluctuate due to cycles in the weather and changes in water quality. It is our responsibility to become aware of water quality and quantity in our community and help manage the water and other natural resources in an effective way to sustain a healthy environment.

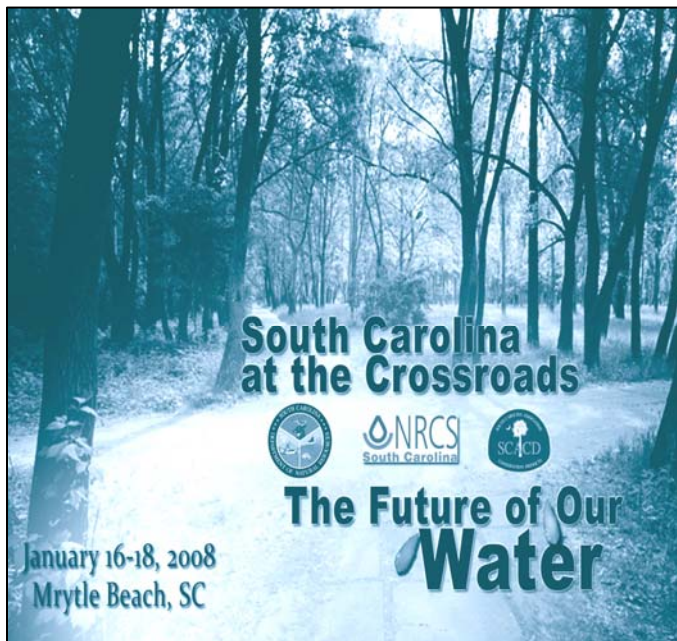
This year Kevin Wicker of SCE&G spoke to our group about Canady's Station. Canady's Station is a mid-sized fossil plant that generates 470 megawatts of electricity by burning pulverized coal. This plant began commercial operation in 1962. Over the years SCE&G has spent millions of dollars on the latest emissions control technology. In the late 1990s, which reduced the a baghouse was installed on Unit 3. The fly ash from the combustion process also installed to remove nitrous oxide and Canady's Station also utilizes a closed means the plant has little impact on the surrounding wildlife. Since 1994, SCE&G has spent millions of dollars on the latest emissions control technology. In the late 1990s, the boilers were installed amount of nitrous gases. In 1999, bag-house removes 99 percent of and in 2002 a test scrubber was sulfur dioxide from the flue gas. cycle cooling water system which near by Edisto River and the has spent \$315 million on all coal-fired plants to reduce emissions. By 2010, they plan to spend an additional \$450 million. Ash, a by product of the combustion process, is now being sold to companies to be recycled into other useful products. All of these initiatives contribute to the conservation of our natural resources and to a healthy environment. Kevin Wicker emphasized that Canady's Station is committed to being a good steward of the environment. Stewardship Week concluded with our group having lunch alongside the beautiful Edisto River.

*When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation. - Aldo Leopold*



## 2008 Conservation Partnership Conference

### "South Carolina at the Crossroads~The Future of Our Water"



The annual South Carolina Conservation Partnership Conference was held in Myrtle Beach on January 15-18, 2008 at Kingston Plantation.

The conference began January 15<sup>th</sup> with a one-day symposium on *Smart Farming...The Basics of Precision Agriculture* sponsored by the SC Soil & Water Conservation Society. Participants learned about the latest advances in precision agriculture.

January 16-18 the conference focused on the challenges that South Carolina may face in the near future concerning water quality and quantity. Local, regional, and national conservationists spoke on a range of topics including watershed assessment, defining resource concerns in impaired watersheds, and how to deal with water quantity concerns.

The conference is jointly sponsored with the SC Association of Conservation Districts, the SC Department of Natural Resources, and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.



### Randy Fowler ~ Resource Soil Scientist

**Randy Fowler** returned to NRCS September 2, 2007 as the Resource Soil Scientist for the Low Country Service Area. He will be working out of the Charleston Field Office.

For the past seven years, Randy worked with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District in the Wetlands Regulatory Program. He served in the Special Projects Branch as the nationwide permit coordinator, hydric soils specialist, and was responsible for consistency in jurisdictional determinations.

In his previous SC NRCS employment, Randy served as a Soil Scientist in the Orangeburg, Dorchester, Allendale, and Charleston Soil Survey Offices. Welcome back Randy!!

### Rick Colson ~ Engineer Technician

**Rick Colson** began work with NRCS on Monday, October 29, 2007 as the Engineer Technician in the Walterboro Field Office. Rick is coming to us from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, where he worked at a facility in Williamsburg. He served as the head of engineering for the facility and has a tremendous amount of experience with AutoCAD.

At one point in his career, he worked as a technician for the USACOE. At the Corps he worked on several large scale projects that provided survey information prior to the installation of the jetties at Murrells Inlet and Little River, and the construction of Cooper River Re-diversion Project. Rick, his wife Cindy and children, Lauren (16), Justin (14), Jarred (12), live in the Walterboro area. Please join Colleton Conservation District and NRCS in welcoming Rick, also known as "Cads Man", to Colleton County.



## 2007~2008 Affiliate Members \*denotes new members

The Colleton Soil & Water Conservation District would like to thank our affiliate members who continue to generously donate and to welcome our new members. Your support helps provide educational programs for students and the public about conserving and protecting the abundance of natural resources in Colleton County. Let's all work together to make Colleton County a better place to live. Your contribution is tax deductible

### Supporting ~ \$35.00

Benton's Feed, Seed & Garden  
 Cheeha-Combahee Plantation  
 David W. Barnes  
 Donald J. Holmes CPA \*  
 Double L Farms  
 Enterprise Bank of SC  
 Gregory & Mary Hudson  
 Howard E. Thomas, Inc.  
 John Graham  
 New York Life Insurance Co.  
 Norris & Mary Laffitte  
 Plum Hill Plantation  
 Rizer's Pork & Produce  
 Vision Outdoor Advertising  
 White Wood, Inc.

### Contributing ~ \$50.00

American Forestry Management  
 Bank of Walterboro  
 Gladys M. Murray Flowers  
 Joseph F. Flowers, MD  
 Loblolly Tree Farm, LP  
 Lowcountry Soil Consulting  
 Snipe Hill \*  
 Southside Container & Trailer \*

### Benefactor ~ \$100.00 +

Airy Hall Plantation \*  
 Carroll Management Co., Inc.  
 Coastal Electric Coop., Inc.  
 Farm Bureau  
 Hope Plantation  
 Memory of Harry Stanfield  
 Palmetto Rural Telephone Coop.  
 Ravenwood Plantation

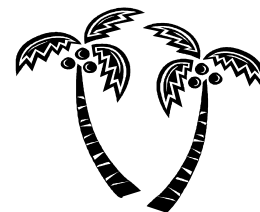
### "Helping People Help the Land"

All programs and services of the Conservation District, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and DNR-Land, Water and Conservation Division are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, marital status or handicap.

## Affiliate Membership

Yes, I would like to become a sponsor of the Colleton Soil & Water Conservation District.

Please check one:    ☐ Supporting Membership \$35.00  
                                  ☐ Contributing Membership \$50.00  
                                  ☐ Benefactor Membership \$100.00 +



How would you like your membership listed? Individual or Company name

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to:

Colleton Soil & Water Conservation District  
 531 Robertson Blvd., Suite B  
 Walterboro, SC 29488



The Conservation District relies on NRCS to provide technical assistance to landowners in Colleton County. Assistance is provided with implementation of conservation practices such as wildlife and fishpond management, subsurface drainage, residue management, nutrient and pest management, prescribed grazing, wetland restoration, and other technical practices, which may require engineering surveys and designs. Last year, NRCS assisted 892 customers with conservation issues concerning agriculture, forestry, wildlife, recreation, and engineering. NRCS is also involved with the administration of various cost share programs such as the WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program), the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), and the WRP (Wetland Reserve Program). In addition, NRCS provides technical assistance in the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) and certain projects involving RC&D and the Willow Swamp Watershed. The local NRCS Office is located at 531 Robertson Blvd., Walterboro and the phone number is 549-1821 (ext.3)



### ***Cost-Share Programs ~ by Fred Tritapoe***

**Conservation Reserve Program** - CRP provides landowners with the opportunity to retire cropland in environmentally sensitive areas. The continuous sign-up allows for the establishment of wildlife areas, trees, filter strips, and riparian buffers. The CP-33 (Quail Habitat Buffers) has provided Colleton County Landowners with incentives to establish native cover around the edge of cropfields. In the last 3 years, over 200 acres of native cover strips have been established and managed in the county to enhance quail habitat.

**Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program** - WHIP provides financial incentives to develop habitat for wildlife on private lands. Cost share is available for such practices as prescribed burning, native cover management, tree planting, timber stand improvement, and natural regeneration. Colleton County has 12 landowners enrolled in the program for a total of 8,681 acres.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program** - EQIP provides incentive payments up to 50% cost sharing for conservation practices such as microirrigation, erosion control structures, field borders, pasture and hayland practices, livestock management, and animal waste facilities. In Colleton County, there are currently 2,031 acres enrolled in this program. EQIP also provides for a Small Farmers Initiative. Costsharing items include but are not limited to microirrigation, no-till, prescribed grazing, fencing, heavy use area establishment, livestock watering system, and record keeping.

**Wetland Reserve Program** - WRP is a voluntary program to restore wetlands that have been manipulated through drainage. Landowners can establish permanent conservation easements on land offered and in return receive payment on the agriculture value of the land as well as 100 percent of the cost of restoration. Regardless of program application, all potential participants must clear eligibility prior to receiving approval.



## Conservation Projects in Colleton County



Pipe Line Installation ~ Ben Teasdel



Micro irrigation Installation ~ Ben Teasdel



Hay Planting ~ Buddy Craven



Watering Facility ~ William Stanley



Watering Facility ~ William Stanley



Heavy Use Area ~ William Stanley



Colleton Soil & Water Conservation District  
531 Robertson Blvd., Suite B  
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Phone: 843-549-1821 (ext. 3)

Fax: 843-549-6001

Email: [sharon.hrvol@sc.nacdnet.net](mailto:sharon.hrvol@sc.nacdnet.net)

*The Colleton Soil and Water Conservation District Board meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month except November. Please call 549-1821 (ext. 3) for more information.*

### **Carroll ~ WRP Project in Colleton County**



**Pipe & Dike Installation**



**Riser Pipe Installation**



**Barrel Pipe Compaction**



**Concrete Pouring**